

REMARKS

Prior to examination following the filing of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114, the applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments. Specifically, by way of this paper, the applicant has amended claims 16, 21, 27, and 31. No new matter has been added. The applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the art of record and earnestly solicit a favorable notification to that effect.

Turning to the amendments of claim 16, the first line has been amended to recite ‘books’ instead of ‘a book’ after the word ‘form.’ In line four after the word ‘form,’ claim 16 has been amended to recite ‘first and second books’ instead of ‘the book.’ In line eight after the word activate, claim 16 has been amended by striking out the language ‘a selected one of the feeders at a time’ and adding ‘a first combination of the feeders to form at least a portion of the first book and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination to form at least a portion of the second book.’ The applicant respectfully submits that support for this amendment can be found in U.S. patent no. 6,257,566 at least at column 5, lines 3-27.

Turning to the amendments of claim 21, lines 5-7 have been amended after the word ‘activate’ by striking out the language ‘a selected one of the feeders at a time’ and adding ‘a first combination of the feeders at a first time and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination at a second time.’ The applicant respectfully submits that support for this amendment can be found in U.S. patent no. 6,257,566 at least at column 5, lines 3-27.

Turning to the amendments of claim 27, line five has been amended by inserting the language ‘a first combination of’ between the words ‘deliver’ and ‘the.’ In addition, claim 27 has also been amended at line six by adding after the word ‘boxes’ the language ‘and a

second combination of the distinct signatures different from the first combination to the associated one of the packer boxes.’ The applicant respectfully submits that support for this amendment can be found in U.S. patent no. 6,257,566 at least at column 5, lines 3-27.

Turning to the amendments of claim 31, line five has been amended by inserting ‘first and second combinations of’ between the words ‘deliver’ and ‘the.’ In addition, line six has been amended by adding after the word ‘conveyor,’ the language ‘wherein the first combination of the signatures is different from the second combination of the signatures.’ The applicant respectfully submits that support for this amendment can be found in U.S. patent no. 6,257,566 at least at column 5, lines 3-27.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 is allowable over the art of record. Independent claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, a controller in communication with feeders to activate a first combination of the feeders to form at least a portion of the first book and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination to form at least a portion of the second book. The art of record does not describe or suggest a controller in communication with feeders to activate a first combination of the feeders to form at least a portion of the first book and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination to form at least a portion of the second book. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 is also allowable over the art of record. Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, a controller in communication with each of a plurality of feeders to activate a first combination of the feeders at a first time and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination at a second time. The art of record does not describe or suggest a controller in communication with each of the

feeders to activate a first combination of the feeders at a first time and a second combination of the feeders different from the first combination at a second time. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 27 is also allowable over the art of record. Independent claim 27 recites, *inter alia*, selectively controlling feeders to deliver a first combination of distinct signatures to an associated packer box and a second combination of the distinct signatures different from the first combination to the associated packer box. The art of record does not describe or suggest selectively controlling feeders to deliver a first combination of distinct signatures to an associated packer box and a second combination of the distinct signatures different from the first combination to the associated packer box. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 27 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 31 is also allowable over the art of record. Independent claim 31 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of feeders operatively coupled to a feed conveyor and configured to hold signatures and respond to signals from a controller to cause the feeders to selectively deliver first and second combinations of the signatures to a binding line via the feed conveyor, wherein the first combination of the signatures is different from the second combination of the signatures. The art of record does not describe or suggest a plurality of feeders operatively coupled to a feed conveyor and configured to hold signatures and respond to signals from a controller to cause the feeders to selectively deliver first and second combinations of the signatures to a binding line via the feed conveyor, wherein the first combination of the signatures is different from the second

combination of the signatures. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 31 and all claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Mark G. Hanley/

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